

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-12, 15-20, 23-29, 32-38, 41-46, 49-54, 57-60 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-60 were presented for examination. Claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 21, 22, 30, 31, 39, 40, 47, 48, 55, and 56 have been cancelled by amendment.

In the office action mailed April 15, 2004 (the "Office Action"), the abstract of the disclosure was objected to based on informalities. Claims 1, 10, 18, 27, 45, and 57 were also objected to based on informalities. Claims 4, 13, 21, 30, and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9-11, 13, 17-19, 21, 24, 26-28, 30, 33, 35-37, 39, 42, and 44-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,327,318 to Bhullar *et al.* (the "Bhullar patent"). Claims 3, 6, 8, 12, 15, 16, 20, 23, 25, 29, 32, 34, 38, 41, and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Bhullar patent. Claims 5, 14, 22, 31, and 40 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

With respect to the Examiner's objection to the abstract of disclosure and claims 1, 10, 18, 27, 45, and 57, the abstract and claims 1, 10, 18, 27, 45, and 57 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection.

With respect to the rejection of claims 4, 13, 21, 30, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, these claims have been cancelled by amendment, and consequently, the rejection is now moot.

Claims 1, 10, 18, 27, and 36 have been amended to expedite the allowance of allowable subject matter. The amendments, however, should not be interpreted as reflecting Applicants' belief that the subject matter of the unamended claims is unpatentable. Moreover, Applicants have not addressed the merits of the Examiner's rejection of the claims, or whether the Examiner's characterizations of the cited references are accurate. Therefore, the presumption that Applicants have tacitly acknowledged the merit of the rejections or that the references cited by the Examiner are relevant to the patentability of the present invention should not be made.

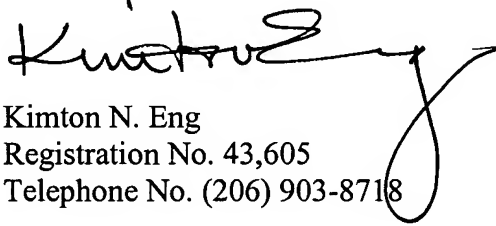
Claims 45 and 53 have been amended to recite a combination of limitations that are not disclosed in the Bhullar patent. Namely, claims 45 and 53 specifically recite a method for compensating for variance from an expected relationship between a fine delay circuit and a

coarse delay circuit of a variable delay line that includes stabilizing the feedback signal by ignoring transitions of the feedback signal occurring within at least one period of the input clock signal.

All of the claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

Postcard

Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)

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